



LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

October 28, 2008

The Honorable Board of Directors
Los Angeles County
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE SPECIFIED AND COUNTY EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE
SECOND SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT TO
THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF AN EXCESS FUNDS
GRANT AMENDMENT FOR THE
COMPTON CREEK AND LOS ANGELES RIVER ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
(SECOND DISTRICT – 3 VOTE MATTER)**

SUBJECT

These actions will allocate \$2,019,510 in Specified Excess Funds, and \$45,000 in County Excess Funds available to the Second Supervisorial District, to enable the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to purchase privately-owned land and easements along Compton Creek. The total cost for the acquisition is \$4,010,000 and the balance of \$1,945,490 required for the acquisition is available in an existing grant funded through the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find the proposed actions exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, for the reasons cited herein.

2. Allocate Specified Excess Funds available to the Second Supervisorial District in the amount of \$2,019,510 to the Mountains and Recreation Conservation Authority (MRCA) for the acquisition portion of the Compton Creek and Los Angeles River Enhancement Project.
3. Allocate County Excess Funds available to the Second Supervisorial District in the amount of \$45,000 to the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) for the grant to the MRCA for the acquisition portion of the Compton Creek and Los Angeles River Enhancement Project.
4. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to award a grant amendment to the MRCA, when applicable conditions have been met, and to administer the grant amendment as of the date of this action and pursuant to procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified and Per Parcel Projects.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approval of the recommendations will allocate \$2,019,510 in Specified Excess Funds and \$45,000 in County Excess Funds available to the Second Supervisorial District, to the MRCA to fund the acquisition of 7.44 acres of private property and 0.97 acres in easements for portions of privately-owned property along Compton Creek.

The acquisition consists of the purchase of one parcel and portions of three other parcels, collectively totaling 7.44 acres, as well as easements for parts of two parcels, totaling an additional 0.97 acres. The properties represent some of the last pieces of undeveloped land along Compton Creek. They offer a unique opportunity of adding a segment of land in a gap between the City of Compton and County multi-use trails along Compton Creek. The site is one of the few remaining areas offering habitat and natural park area to the City of Compton and surrounding communities.

The total cost to acquire the property and easements is \$4,010,000 and is funded with \$2,019,510 in Specified Excess Funds, \$45,000 in County Excess Funds available to the Second Supervisorial District, and \$1,945,490 in leftover funding from an October 2002 grant to the MRCA funded under Section (3), Subsection (b), Paragraph (9) of the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996.

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. The MRCA and Department meet this requirement.

It is also recommended that the Director of Parks and Recreation be authorized to award a grant amendment to the MRCA, when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications and consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, as well as grantee agreement with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the project, and to administer the grant under procedures previously approved by your Board.

In a related item on today's agenda, the Department, which is a qualified recipient of County Excess Funds under the 1996 Proposition, is requesting that your Board, in its capacity as the County's Board of Supervisors, assign the right to apply for \$45,000 in County Excess funds to MRCA for the project.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The proposed recommendations further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goal No. 1 (Service Excellence), Goal No. 4 (Fiscal Responsibility), Goal No. 5 (Children and Families' Well-being), and Goal No. 6 (Community Services), by allocating Excess Funds for enhanced recreational and educational opportunities along Compton Creek in the Second Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grant in the amount of \$2,064,510 is budgeted in the Second Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6 and in the amount of \$1,945,490 in the Assessment Fund, HB4.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended grant would be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Second Supervisorial District for highest priority regional open space and recreation projects including projects along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries and from County Excess Funds available to the Second Supervisorial District.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director of Parks and Recreation would be authorized to award a grant when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

Your Board approved a Procedural Guide on June 17, 1997, to govern the administration of Regional Park and Open Space District grants for Specified and Per Parcel projects. This Procedural Guide would appropriately govern the administration of the recommended additional grant amendment as well.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement Amendment will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director of Parks and Recreation and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 1997. The Project Agreement Amendment will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended project will provide additional recreation and educational opportunities along Compton Creek in the Second Supervisorial District.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All public agency projects funded by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District are required to comply with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. The MRCA is the lead agency for the Compton Creek and Los Angeles River Enhancement Project.

The proposed administrative actions are not subject to CEQA in that the actions do not meet the definition of a project according to Sections 15378 (b)(4)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines, because the actions are administrative activities for government grants which by their terms do not involve any commitments to any specific projects which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one conformed copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects Division, and to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,



Russ Guiney
Director, Parks and Recreation

RG:IV:LB:REGIONALPARKANDOPENSAPCEDISTRICT(COMPTON CREEK BL)

c: Chief Executive Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors (22)
County Counsel